



## Fiscal Year 2023 Public Budget Meeting & Hearing

March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022

6:30pm – 8:30pm

*This Meeting/Hearing is in Person and on Zoom*

### Remote Participation and Comment

Residents may participate in the meeting via:

- Teleconference by calling (929) 436-2866 and entering Meeting ID: 881 4960 8367 and Passcode: 781405
- Or web conference at:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88149608367?pwd=Vm10OFo0UzEwbVNnenhiYnF4bEN1Zz09>

## Meeting Agenda

- Welcome & introductions
- Project Highlights
  - Community Broadband Internet Project
  - Fairgrounds Community Park and Conservation Project
- Review of budget and meeting goals
- Presentation and discussion of summary budget information

## Welcome & Introductions

- Welcome from the Chair of the Select Board
- Select Board Members:
  - Kathryn Woodsum (Vice Chair)
  - Carol Doorenbos
  - Ralph Eno
  - Sean Keegan
  - Dennis Price (Chair – *excused*)

## Welcome & Introductions

- Welcome from the Chair of the Budget Committee
- Budget Committee Members:
  - Andy Tolman (Chair)
  - Ellen Schneider (Secretary)
  - Marty Hanish
  - Rebecca Lambert
  - Ed Sims

## Budget Process Summary to Date

- We've had 11 public meetings and presentations to develop and discuss the budget since November
- We've had review and comment by members of the public, Boards and Committees, the Budget Committee, and the Select Board
- We've reviewed budget details for all departments and divisions
- We've reviewed and revised the 5-year capital plan

## Public Budget Meeting Goals

- Highlight and Discuss key Projects
- Present the 2022-2023 (FY23) Municipal Budget in summary form
- Hear and answer (whenever possible) any questions, concerns, and comments related to the FY23 Municipal Budget
- Provide information on the upcoming Town Meeting and Secret Ballot Vote

## Ongoing Budget Goals

- Improve communication with the public and incorporate public feedback in the budget
- Consider the Town budget separate from the School and County budgets
- Focus on capital investment projects and utilize a long-range planning cycle
- Use designated and undesignated funds responsibly
- Work together toward the public good

## FY23 Budget Goals

- Prioritize investment in recreational assets and public facilities
- Provide reliable public services
  - Communication
  - Emergency Services
  - Transportation
- Minimize budget impacts to taxpayers

## FY23 Project Highlights

### Community Broadband Internet

- Background
  - **The goal is to provide uniform, affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband internet to everyone in town**
  - Town priority for 3-4 years with most activity last year
  - Thank you to the Select Board for their work, including a 2021 resolution on implementation
  - In November of 2021 voters authorized municipal borrowing , an RFP, and contract negotiations
  - Thank you to the Broadband Committee for their work, including ongoing review and the selection of a preferred provider in March of 2022

## FY23 Project Highlights

### Community Broadband Internet

- Project Scope
  - Proposed construction of a municipally owned fiber optic network to all homes and businesses
  - Network operation provided by AXIOM, selected as the preferred provider following competitive bid process
  - Construction agreement and Franchise Agreement negotiations are ongoing but we have a good start
  - If approved in June connections could happen in 12-18 months (it's a big project...)

## FY23 Project Highlights

### Community Broadband Internet

- Cost Considerations
  - Fiber optic network and equipment paid for through tax base, similar to roads, schools, etc.
  - Variable capital cost shared by taxpayers based on property value, average of \$20-\$25 per month
  - Subscription fees for service based on speeds from 50 MB/s at \$30/mo, up to 500 MB/s at \$80
  - Average total cost will be about \$55 - \$60/mo for 100 MB/s service, plus optional router at \$7/mo
  - **These figures are not final**

FY23 Project Highlights  
Community Broadband Internet

- Other Considerations
  - 100% coverage town-wide, up to 1 GB/s
  - Advertised speeds are guaranteed not “up-to” and will be delivered to all customers consistently
  - Maine based customer support and service, and AXIOM is a Maine owned company
  - Low-income assistance available
  - Community owned network means local control of service levels and pricing, and we are investing in an asset with real value

FY23 Project Highlights  
Community Broadband Internet

- Welcome to Mark Quелlette, owner of AXIOM
  - Who we are
  - What we do
  - Relationship with Readfield
  - Other details
- We have time for a few questions but will need to move on to the rest of the hearing
- We will have more time for questions after the budget presentation

## FY23 Project Highlights

### Community Park and Conservation

- Background
  - **The goal is to provide more recreational opportunities for our residents and youth while maintaining a balance with conservation and other uses of the Fairgrounds property**
  - Town priority for the past few years
  - 2021 Town meeting vote for planning and design work
  - 2022 process for engaging stakeholder groups and developing final plans

## FY23 Project Highlights

### Community Park and Conservation

- Project Scope
  - Addition of a softball field, basketball court, kiosk, concession stand, pollinator garden, trails, and associated utilities and structures at the town Fairgrounds Property – a true community park
  - Focus on minimizing impact on natural area while delivering built facilities to support sports use
  - The plan is similar to the original project design
  - Habitat and wetland mitigation on-site and at other properties, like the old landfill site



## FY23 Project Highlights

### Community Park and Conservation

- Cost Considerations
  - Given the topography of the site the location of fields makes a big difference in cost due to fill
  - Early projections ranged from \$386 K to \$514 K
  - The revised current site plan calls for much less fill and will be closer to the lower end of the scale
  - The anticipated cost is now in the range of \$350 K to \$400 K, including a 20% contingency
  - We are still working on concept plans but will have engineered plans before town meeting

## FY23 Project Highlights

### Community Park and Conservation

- Other Considerations
  - The Fairgrounds property is ideally located to support recreational infrastructure
  - The improvements are consistent with the multi-use purpose of the property
  - Other sport fields exist in town but access is limited
  - Adding a softball field promotes fairness
  - Environmental impacts will be mitigated

## FY23 Project Highlights

### Community Park and Conservation

- Project Plans
  - Available at <https://www.readfieldmaine.org/>
  - Available at the Readfield Town Office
  - Will be modified in the coming months but the project components and general locations are fairly well established
  - Thank you to the Readfield Conservation Commission, Historical Society, Recreation Committee, and Trails Committee for their work to develop and shape this project

## FY23 Project Highlights

### Community Park and Conservation

- Welcome to Hannah Flannery from Readfield Recreation Committee
  - What we do
  - Why this project is important
  - Other project details
- We have time for a few questions but will need to move on to the rest of the hearing
- We will have more time for questions after the budget presentation



## Revenue Highlights

- 3<sup>rd</sup> year of 10% factor applied to the residential tax base to match State of Maine valuation
- 1.5% tax base increase for new value due to unprecedented home starts and renovation
- All revenue lines were carefully reviewed for changing COVID -19 impacts and many were increased from the prior year
- State Rev. Sharing was increased to \$400,000 to account for full “funding” at 5% of State revenue
- Motor Vehicle revenues are up by \$75,000

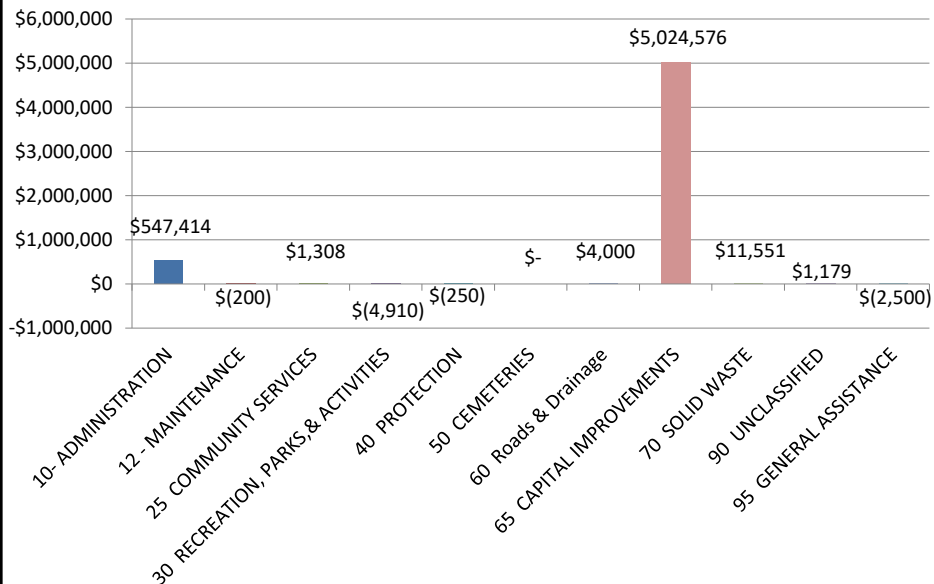
## Revenue Highlights (cont'd)

- Use of Designated Funds is up by about \$60,000
- Use of Undesignated Funds is flat
- We anticipate bond proceeds of \$5,500,000 if the borrowing approved in November is acted upon for the Broadband Project and the Fairgrounds Project borrowing is approved
- New ARPA funds of \$135,770 are anticipated
- Total Transfer Station revenue is up over \$11,000
- FirstPark revenue is stable and once again anticipated to be revenue neutral

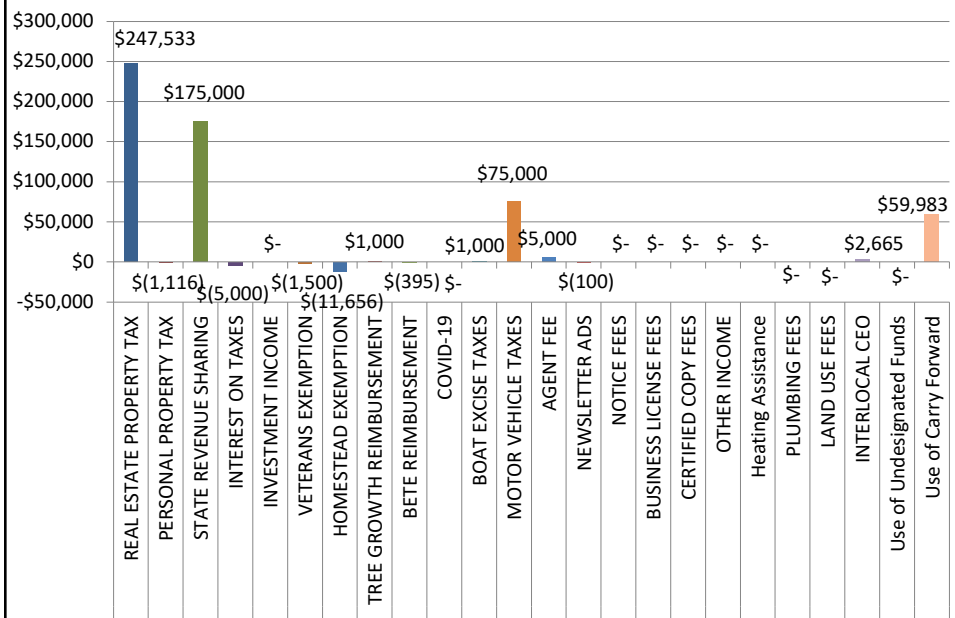
## Revenue Summary – By Department

DIVISION	2022 BUDGET	2023 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
10 ADMINISTRATION	\$ 6,131,999	\$ 6,679,413	\$ 547,414	8.9%
12 MAINTENANCE	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ (200)	-
25 COMMUNITY SERV.	\$ 36,667	\$ 37,975	\$ 1,308	3.6%
30 REC., PARKS, & ACTIV.	\$ 18,210	\$ 13,300	\$ (4,910)	-27.0%
40 PROTECTION	\$ 3,450	\$ 3,200	\$ (250)	-7.2%
50 CEMETERIES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
60 ROADS & DRAINAGE	\$ 32,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 4,000	12.5%
65 CAPITAL IMPROV.	\$ 490,533	\$ 5,515,109	\$ 5,024,576	1024.3%
70 SOLID WASTE	\$ 216,838	\$ 228,389	\$ 11,551	5.3%
90 UNCLASSIFIED	\$ 28,569	\$ 29,748	\$ 1,179	4.1%
95 GENERAL ASSIST.	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500	\$ (2,500)	-50.0%
	<b>\$ 6,963,466</b>	<b>\$ 12,545,634</b>	<b>\$ 5,582,168</b>	<b>80.2%</b>

## 2022-2023 Revenue \$ Change by Department



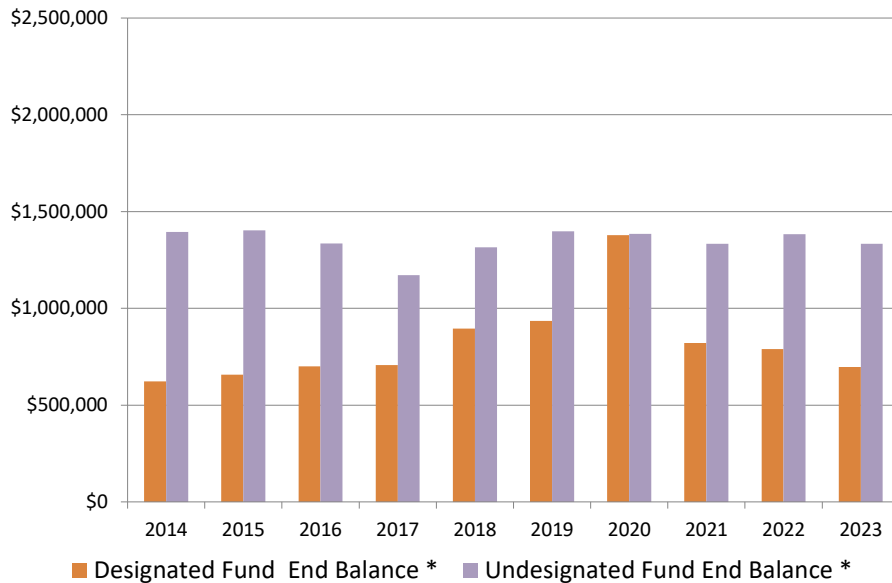
## 2022-2023 Revenue \$ Change Admin. By Dept.



## Fund Highlights

- Use of fund balance contribute to stability in the mil rate and offset some capital expenditures
- Fund balances are conservative
- Use of Designated Funds up by \$59,983
- Use of Undesignated Funds is flat
- We have a 2/12 policy for Undesignated Funds and expect to be at 64% of this threshold in FY23 given the impact of capital expenses

### Fund End Balances by Fiscal Year (est. for FY23)



### Expense Highlights

- Administration
  - General labor and Insurance costs are up \$28,442 primarily due to pandemic related changes
  - Assessing and Code Enforcement budgets are up due to wage adjustments and increased demand
  - Legal fees are up \$25,000 , to \$50,000, due to the threat of litigation – we are prepared to protect residents’ rights and the integrity of the town
- Maintenance
  - The department is up a net of \$15,385 due in large part to the same adjustments seen in Admin.

## Expense Highlights

- Community Services
  - \$4,915 reduction in ACO line due to removal of duplicative payment for wages and stipend
  - Library is up \$7,262 due to labor expenses
  - \$1,750 increase in Streetlights due to proposed installation of 5 new LED fixtures
- Recreation, Parks, & Activities
  - Increase of \$1,104 for Beach needs
  - Increase in Heritage Days, “post-pandemic” bump
  - \$2,668 Increase in trails due to no prior-year materials purchases and no reserve

## Expense Highlights

- Protection
  - Ambulance budget is up \$15,290 per Winthrop
- Cemeteries
  - \$3,000 reduction
- Roads & Drainage
  - \$78,000 Winter Roads expense increase to cover a budget shortfall this year and an increase next
- Capital Improvements
  - \$9,000 to complete digital conversion for PEG
  - Up to \$5,000,000 for Broadband Internet



## Expense Highlights

- Capital Improvements (continued)
  - \$10,000 increase in savings for Gile Hall
  - Up to \$500,000 for Fairgrounds Project
  - \$15,000 for Library parking lot paving
  - \$50,000 for open space fund
  - \$350,000 for paving and infrastructure
    - \$200,000 for paving reserve
    - \$150,000 for salt/sand storage building
  - Ongoing lease payments and reserve at Transfer Station

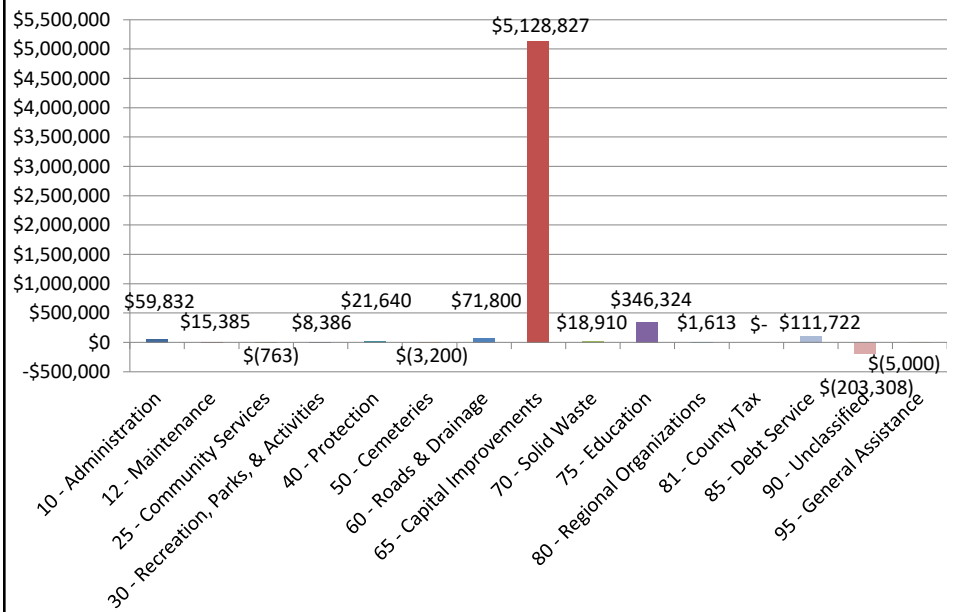
## Expense Highlights

- Solid Waste
  - \$18,910 increase in Transfer Station expenses related primarily to contracted service costs
- Education
  - Estimated 10%, \$346,324 increase
- Debt Service
  - New municipal bond interest payments of \$88,257
- Unclassified
  - The Overlay was reduced by \$197,952 to the normal \$25,000 level

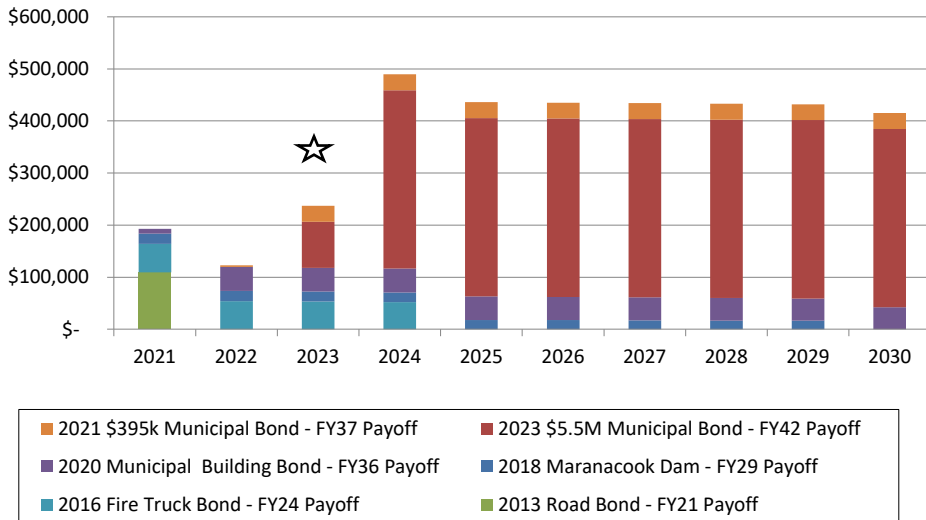
## Expense Summary – By Department

DIVISION	2022 BUDGET	2023 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
10 - Administration	\$ 620,098	\$ 679,930	\$ 59,832	9.6%
12 - Maintenance	\$ 144,915	\$ 160,300	\$ 15,385	10.6%
25 - Community Serv.	\$ 75,466	\$ 74,703	\$ (763)	-1.0%
30 - Rec., Parks, & Act.	\$ 50,321	\$ 58,707	\$ 8,386	16.7%
40 - Protection	\$ 154,335	\$ 175,975	\$ 21,640	14.0%
50 - Cemeteries	\$ 22,700	\$ 19,500	\$ (3,200)	-14.1%
60 - Roads & Drainage	\$ 417,850	\$ 489,650	\$ 71,800	17.2%
65 - Capital Improv.	\$ 902,858	\$ 6,031,685	\$ 5,128,827	568.1%
70 - Solid Waste	\$ 323,665	\$ 342,575	\$ 18,910	5.8%
75 - Education	\$ 3,463,235	\$ 3,809,559	\$ 346,324	10.0%
80 - Regional Org's	\$ 49,000	\$ 50,613	\$ 1,613	3.3%
81 - County Tax	\$ 319,743	\$ 319,743	\$ -	0.0%
85 - Debt Service	\$ 125,224	\$ 236,946	\$ 111,722	89.2%
90 - Unclassified	\$ 294,056	\$ 90,748	\$ (203,308)	-69.1%
95 - General Assistance	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	\$ (5,000)	-50.0%
	\$ 6,973,466	\$ 12,545,634	\$ 5,572,168	79.9%

## 2022-2023 Exp. \$ Change by Department



## Current & Budgeted Debt Service



## Municipal Budget Highlights

- Pandemic related labor and materials costs are the main drivers for increased operating expenses
- Community investments in broadband and recreation are primarily behind capital costs and debt service increases
- **After two years of decreases in net tax impact we are budgeting for an increase in FY23**

## School & County Budget Highlights

- School budget information is available on their website at [www.maranacook.org/budget](http://www.maranacook.org/budget)
- The school budget is likely to increase between 10% and 12%, and will account for about 78% of property taxes for Readfield
- The County budget is unknown at this time but usually accounts for about 5% of property taxes and is expected to be flat

## Important Dates:

- **April 1, 2022** – Deadline for FY21 Homestead Exemption applications – worth about \$373
- **April 15, 2022** - Nomination papers and Warrant due to Town Clerk
- **May 13, 2022** - Absentee Municipal Ballots available, State and RSU ballots will be later
- **June 2, 2022** - Final Public Budget Meeting & Hearing
- **June 14, 2022** – Town Meeting / Secret Ballot